

tigable spirit of the Chinese people, in works that relate to public utility. This road, thirty feet in breadth, is cut through a solid rock; and what appeared to us more extraordinary, to lessen its declivity, it is sunk so much, that it is not less than one hundred feet from the top of the mountain to the surface of the road; yet still the ascent is tremendous, and at the beginning has a very fearful appearance, while on the other side the way slopes down with a gentle declivity between two large mountains towards a beautiful valley.

After passing this mountain, at about a mile and a half distance, we arrived at the palace of Chaung-shanuve, situated on a small elevation; it is of large dimensions, and surrounded by an high wall, being the residence of a considerable number of the Emperor's women; many of whom we discovered peeping over the partition which separated their apartments from the part of the palace assigned to the accommodation of the embassy. Though we were not permitted, as may well be supposed, to visit these ladies, the eunuchs who were their guardians, came to visit us. There were several mandarins among them, to whom was consigned the care and conduct of this female community. This palace is surrounded with very extensive gardens and pleasure grounds, but from the particular service to which they are applied, it would have been an idle risk, of danger, to have made any attempt to see them.

We left Chaung-shanuve at six o'clock next morning; the road takes the character of the country, which was every where broken and mountainous: yet sterile as it now appeared, this evidently did not proceed from any want of activity in the natives. Every



spot capable of cultivation was covered with corn ; and in one place we saw several patches of tillage where the declivity seemed to be wholly inaccessible. This excited our admiration, but judge our surprise when we observed a peasant labouring on one of them, where we at first could not conceive how he was capable of standing.

A more minute examination informed us, that this peasant had a rope fastened round his middle, which was secured at the top of the mountain, and by which this hardy cultivator lets himself down to any part of the precipice where a few yards of ground give him encouragement to plant his vegetables or sow his corn : and in this manner he had decorated the mountain with those little cultivated spots that hung about it. Near the bottom, on an hillock, he had erected a wooden hut, surrounded with a small piece of ground, planted with a few necessary vegetables, where he supported, by his hazardous industry, a wife and family. The whole of these cultivated spots, which did not appear to amount to more than half an acre, offered from their situation, at such hazardous distances from each other, a very curious example of the natural industry of the people.

We have before noticed, and we again repeat, that the wise policy of the Chinese government is in nothing more perceptible than in its receiving the greatest part of the taxes imposed, in the produce of the country. This serves as a spur to the exertions of both body and mind. The landlord also is paid his rent in the produce of his farms ; and the farmer again pays his labourers by an allotment of small portions of land,



from whence industry, with a little occasional encouragement, may derive a comfortable subsistence. The only real wealth of nations is agriculture, which is here perfectly understood. A regular chain is established between all ranks for its encouragement ; and the artificial and unnatural medium of money, the source of wretchedness and of crimes, is only employed as the cement, not as the materials of the building.

Before noon we arrived at the palace of Calla-chot-tueng, where we spent the remainder of the day. This palace stands between two lofty hills ; it appears of more modern erection, but is built in stile and form, resembling those we had already passed ; the apartments are, however, better fitted up.

At this place the Ambassador gave orders to practise the procession and ceremonies with which we were to appear before the imperial court. His excellency was pleased to approve of the rehearsal, which was under the direction of Colonel Benson, and during which, the band played the favourite march, known by the appellation of the Duke of York's.

On the next morning, being the 7th of September, we continued our route over a hilly country, where the air was piercingly cold. We passed several well-peopled villages, but neither the cultivation of the country, nor its population, will bear any comparison with that on the other side of the Chinese wall.

Early in the afternoon we reached the palace of Calla-chotreshangfu, much fatigued by the badness of the roads ; this palace, in extent and form, is equal to any we had lately seen, but we found it tenanted only by squirrels, which bounded round the courts and haunted the apartments.



At six o'clock next morning we continued our route, and arrived at one of the emperor's pagodas in about two hours, here we found an abundant supply of provisions, but we made only a stay sufficient to enable us to arrange our dress and equipage.

After travelling for about an hour, we came to the village of Quoangcho, within a mile of Jehol, the imperial residence. Here we were marshalled, and proceeded amid an immense concourse of spectators, with all the parade that circumstances would allow. The soldiers of the royal artillery led the way, commanded by Lieutenant Parish; the light-horse and infantry succeeded, commanded by Lieutenant Crewe; then followed the Ambassador's servants, two and two; two couriers; mechanics, two and two; musicians, two and two; the gentlemen of the suite, two and two; Sir George Staunton, in a palankin; the Ambassador and Mr. Staunton closed the cavalcade in the post-chaise, behind which stood a black boy in a turban.

The military, for their numbers, made a respectable shew, and the gentlemen of the suite, it may be reasonably supposed, were not forgetful of their dignity; indeed, it is but doing them justice to say, they strove to support it by every external display in their power, but the generality were a motley group, without even the advantage of a tolerable uniformity in any part of their dress or appearance. The whole certainly was not calculated to convey any extraordinary ideas of the splendor or power of the country from which we came, but the contrary. The Chinese might, indeed, possibly be amused with the novelty of the scene, but it was ut-



terly impossible that they should be impressed with its grandeur.

Proceeding with a slow pace, in this state we reached Jehol about ten in the morning, and drew up before the palace provided for the reception of the embassy. The British military formed a line for the Ambassador as he passed ; but not a mandarin was in waiting to receive him, and we took possession of the palace without the welcome of an address. This, indeed, was a mortal blow to all our hopes and expectations, for it had been given out, that the Grand Choulai would meet the Ambassador, and escort him to Jehol ; and after our arrival, we were kept for some hours in anxious expectation of receiving this honour, the troops holding themselves in readiness to fall into a line, and the servants and mechanics ranged in order before the Ambassador's door ; but at last dinner being served up, put an end to our expectations of seeing him for the day.

The palace we now inhabited is situated on the declivity of a hill. We entered it by a wooden gateway, which conducts to a large court ; each side of this court has a long gallery, supported by wooden pillars, and roofed with black glossy tiles ; that on the left was converted into a kitchen, the others served for the soldiers to exercise in. At the upper end was another gallery of more elegance, from which a door opens into a farther court, the principal apartments of which were appropriated for the use of the Ambassador and Sir George Staunton, the rest for the military gentlemen attached to them ; a third court was occupied by the gentlemen of the suite, the musicians, servants, and mechanics. The whole fabric is surrounded by a high



wall ; but owing to the declivity of the situation, the view was not wholly confined.

Such was our situation at Jehol, we had plenty within our walls, but no one had liberty of egress.

On the day after our arrival, several mandarins visited the Ambassador ; nothing, however, was said on the subject of the mission, but on the second day he received a visit from a mandarin, with a very numerous retinue, who remained nearly an hour in conference with his Excellency and Sir George Staunton. During his stay, his attendants amused themselves in examining the dress of the English servants, and on rubbing the lace on their cloaths with a stone, to ascertain its quality, they shook their heads and smiled, when they found it less valuable than brilliant.

What passed at this conference, could not be generally known, but from some circumstances, a spirit of conjecture was conjured up among the attendants on the embassy, and the presages they formed were by no means favourable.

As soon as the mandarin had left the Ambassador, one of his Excellency's secretaries informed the attendants on the embassy, that if their provisions should be defective in quantity or quality, they were to intimate the grievance to his Excellency alone, and leave them untouched. The occasion for this caution none of us could divine, but we soon found it was not given in vain, for the dinner this day served up, was not sufficient for half the number who were to partake of it. An Englishman cannot easily be reconciled to confinement, but much less to famine ; but, in addition, we could perceive a meditated disrespect, and of course felt some



alarm for the fate of the embassy. According to our instructions ~~the~~ meat was left untouched, and a complaint preferred as directed. His Excellency having remonstrated to the mandarin through the medium of his interpreter, in a few minutes afterwards every table was served with hot dishes, in the usual variety and profusion. Why this entertainment, which must have been nearly ready, was thus withheld, and so speedily produced, served as an enigma to exercise our ingenuity, but which we could never solve. Indeed, no other ideas could possibly be entertained of it, than that of an effort of Chinese ingenuity to try the temper of Englishmen, which, but for the steps taken by the Ambassador, might have been productive of much mischief to the undertaking.

Next day the presents brought from Pe-kin were unpacked in the portico facing the Ambassador's apartments, they consisted of

Two hundred pieces of narrow coarse cloth, chiefly black and blue.

Two large telescopes.

Two air guns.

Two handsome fowling pieces; one inlaid with gold, and the other with silver.

Two pair of saddle pistols, enriched and ornamented in the same manner.

Two boxes, each containing seven pieces of Irish tabinets.

Two elegant saddles, and furniture, the seats of these were of doe skin, stitched with fine silver wire; the flaps were of a bright yellow superfine cloth, embroidered with silver, and enriched with silver



spangles and tassels; the reins and stirrup-straps of bright yellow leather, stitched with silver, but the stirrups, buckles, &c. were only plated.

Two large boxes of the finest carpets of the British manufactory.

These were all the presents which had been brought from Pe-kin; the rest were either too cumbersome or too delicate to be removed without much care, and were, therefore, left to be presented to the Emperor, on his return, for the winter season, to the capital of his empire.

Centinels were placed to guard these specimens of British manufacture, till the Emperor's pleasure respecting them should be known, which was afterwards notified by the attendant mandarin, with as much civility as could be expected from the supposed greatness of his office.

A mandarin of the first order, on the 12th of September, came to acquaint the Ambassador, that his Imperial Majesty would give him an audience on the 14th. This intelligence diffused hope and spirits through the whole embassy, though, it must be confessed, without any apparent cause.

Orders were issued, that the suite should be ready at three on the morning of the day appointed, to accompany his Excellency to the imperial palace. The attendants were to appear in their best liveries; and the soldiers and servants, after having escorted the Ambassador, were to return, without halting, immediately to their quarters; his Excellency informing them, that he hoped the restrictions imposed on them, which were so irksome to all, would in a few days be remov-



ed by his endeavours, and every reasonable indulgence allowed them.

His Excellency was splendidly dressed, in mulberry velvet, with his diamond star and red riband, and over the whole he wore the full habit of the order of the Bath. Sir George Staunton was in a full court dress, over which he wore the robe and hood of a doctor of laws, with the academical cap belonging to that degree.

From the darkness of the morning, a considerable confusion arose in the intended order of the cavalcade; Colonel Benson, indeed, attempted to form a procession, which, however, was but of short duration, even such as it was, for we were soon thrown into confusion by a number of pigs, asses, and dogs, who broke in upon our ranks, and from which, in the dark, we found considerable difficulty to extricate ourselves; but as parade is useless when no one can see it, the failure was of little consequence.

As early as five in the morning, the Ambassador alighted from his palankin at the emperor's palace, amid an immense number of the populace. Sir George and Mr. Staunton supported his train, followed by the gentlemen attached to the embassy.

Jehol is large and populous, very irregularly built, and lies in a valley between two mountains; the houses are low, and chiefly built of wood; and, except in the quarter contiguous to the imperial palace, none of the streets are paved.

The principal support of this place seems to be derived from the Emperor's partiality for it. No river connects it with remote situations; the splendid expense of a court, however, renders it rich, and in some mea-



ture commercial. The surrounding country, though not comparable to China, is in the best state of cultivation of any we saw in Tartary.

As his Excellency's visit was a mere matter of form and presentation, it did not engage him long. He returned from the imperial palace before noon. The Emperor, it is said, received the credentials with a most ceremonious formality, admitting none into his presence but his Excellency, the Interpreter, Sir George and Master Staunton, with the latter of whom he appeared to be vastly delighted, and to whom he presented, with his own hands, a beautiful fan, and some embroidered purses; and likewise ordered the interpreter to signify how highly he thought of his talents.

Soon after the Ambassador's return, a number of valuable presents were received from court, consisting of rich satins, velvets, silks, and purses, and some of the finest tea of the country, made up into solid cakes by means of baking, of about five pounds each. Except such as were addressed for their Britannic Majesties, these presents were proportionably divided among the gentlemen of the suite.

Next morning the Ambassador, attended only by his suite, paid a second visit to the Emperor, in order, as we understood, to attempt to open the wished for negotiation. On this occasion he stopped several hours. The interpreter gave a very favourable report of the aspect of the negotiation, as far as it had advanced; and our hopes for its success seemed to derive some confirmation from the second cargo of presents, consisting of velvets, satins, and silks, as before; Chinese lamps and valuable porcelain; and to these were added



a number of calibash boxes of the most exquisite fabric. A distribution was made as before ; and mirth and festivity, arising from sanguine hopes of success, crowned the evening of the day.

Several mandarins visited the Ambassador on the 16th of September, and invited him and the whole embassy to attend the anniversary of the Emperor's birth-day at court, on the morrow.

Accordingly his Excellency, with the whole of his suite, set out at two o'clock in the morning, and the whole cavalcade reached the imperial palace about four. This palace stands on an elevated situation, and commands an extensive view of the country surrounding it : it contains a numerous range of courts surrounded by porticos, none of which, however, appear very magnificent, though some of them are highly decorated with painting and gilding. The gardens surround it for several miles, and these are bounded by a wall thirty feet high. In the front of the palace is a fine lawn, in the centre of which is a very pleasant lake.

As soon as the Emperor approached, the mandarins in waiting prostrated themselves, or it would have been impossible to have distinguished his palanquin from one of their's. No external pomp or badge of dignity, marked his dress or equipage, except his being carried by twenty mandarins of the first order. It is a favourite maxim of the Chinese government to check superfluous expense, and to encourage frugality and industry in every department. Actuated by the same wise and patriotic principle, the present Emperor has forbid any public joicings on his birth-day, in this less flourishing part of his empire ; but such unfeigned homage is paid



to his dignified and amiable character, that, except in his immediate presence, and under his personal view, all ranks and descriptions of men throughout his extensive dominions, give a loose to joy on this auspicious day. He had now completed the eighty-fifth year of his age, and the fifty-seventh of his reign. His countenance was animated, and little expressive of his advanced years; his eyes were dark and piercing; and his whole air bore the impression of the conscious dignity of virtue rather than that of rank and state. How different the sensations arising from the contemplation of this character are to those which arise from the view of a profligate European prince, we shall leave the reader to determine; we shall only say, that the Chinese evidently viewed their emperor as the father, and not as the scourge of their country.

Our return was followed by a repetition of the same kind of presents as we received before, only varied in pattern and colour. A profusion of fruits, pastry, and confectionary, also accompanied those expressions of imperial munificence.

The next day the Ambassador went in a more private manner to have an audience of leave, as the court was soon to return to Pe-kin. At the same time he transacted certain official business, the result of which was generally spoken of among the suite in the following terms:

That the Emperor declined entering into any written treaty with Great Britain, or indeed with any nation, as being contrary to ancient usage; at the same time he expressed the highest respect for the British nation and the King; and was strongly disposed to give them a



preference in all commercial concerns, and to make any arrangements with respect to British ships at Canton for their advantage, which would not prove disadvantageous to his own subjects ; but that he would not sacrifice the interests of his own people to any foreign connections, and would only continue his avowed partiality for the English, while he found it for the advantage of his own subjects, and they conducted themselves in their commercial intercourse in such a manner as to deserve it.

To evince his high personal regard for the King of Great Britain, he delivered to the Ambassador with his own hand a box of great value, containing the miniatures of all the preceding emperors, with a short character of each in verse, written by themselves, accompanied with the subsequent address :

“ Deliver this casket to the King your master, with  
“ your own hand, and tell him from me, that small as  
“ the present may appear, it is the most valuable I  
“ have to bestow, or my empire can furnish. It has  
“ been transmitted to me through a long line of an-  
“ cestors, and I had reserved it as the last token of  
“ affection I had to bequeath to my son and successor,  
“ as a tablet of the virtues of his progenitors, which  
“ I should hope he had only to peruse to be induced  
“ to imitate ; and to make it, as they had done, the  
“ grand object of his life to exalt the imperial honour,  
“ and advance the happiness of his people.”

This message caused no small degree of speculation among the retinue of the embassy, but none could be fully satisfied themselves, or satisfy others, with respect to the motives of the Emperor, in the present or the



address. If he was concerned for the happiness of Europe, we owe him our grateful acknowledgments, and join with many others in the sincere wish that this address may never be forgotten, and that this singular present may produce that effect on the present possessor of, and the heir apparent to, the British crown, as the Chinese Emperor expected it would have produced on his son; the embassy will then prove of importance, indeed, to the British nation.

After dinner, the Ambassador returned with his whole suite and attendants, to see a play performed in the imperial palace. A temporary stage was erected, and ornamented with a profusion of silk streamers. The dramatic entertainments consisted of mock battles, vaulting, tumbling, rope-dancing, and other gymnastic amusements, which would have done no discredit to any performers in Europe. A variety of deceptions concluded this theatrical fête; one of which was the exhibition of a large bowl, in every possible position; which was immediately placed on the stage, bottom upwards, and on being lifted up again, discovered a large rabbit, which escaped from the performer by taking refuge among the audience. The spectators in general, including many of our own people, were totally at a loss to account for this deception; but to many of us, if we knew not how it was done, it was, at least, no novelty, having frequently seen the same trick exhibited by the jugglers of our own country. Other similar tricks were very dexterously performed, and amused us by their novelty and apparent difficulty. The theatre made a splendid appearance, being well-lighted and well-filled with persons of distinction.



Next day, pipes and tobacco, sufficient to supply every individual belonging to the embassy, were received; and several mandarins came to pay their respects to the Ambassador. In these visits we observed how little regard is paid to external appearance in China. The mandarins never varied their habits; and even the court-dresses here differ very little from the ordinary habiliments. It may be said to consist of a loose robe, falling half-way down the leg, and drawn round the neck with ribands. Over the breast is a piece of embroidery, about five inches square, finished in gold, or silk of various colours, with an exact counterpart on the back; which badges denote the rank of the wearer. The sash, which at other times is usually worn round the waist, is dispensed with at court, and the dress left to its natural flow.

We are now called upon to notice a degree of despotic authority assumed by the leader of the embassy, altogether inconsistent with the character and privileges of British subjects; and as there is reason to believe, that this assumption of arbitrary power conveyed an unfavourable impression to the Chinese of our national character, laws, and customs, to set this matter in a clear light, we shall previously state the orders issued by Lord Macartney, and read to the ships' companies, and all persons of every rank attached to the embassy, on our approaching the coast of China; orders which seemed to have been dictated by sound policy, and a real regard to the successful prosecution of the grand objects in view.



ORDERS, *sealed and signed* MACARTNEY.

“ As the ships and brigs attendant on the embassy to  
“ China are now likely to arrive in port in a few days  
“ hence, his Excellency the Ambassador, thinks it his  
“ duty to make the following observations and arrange-  
“ ments :”

“ It is impossible that the various important objects  
“ of the embassy can be obtained, but through the good-  
“ will of the Chinese: that good-will may much de-  
“ pend on the ideas which they shall be induced to en-  
“ tertain of the disposition and conduct of the English  
“ nation, and they can judge only from the behaviour  
“ of the majority of those who come amongst them.  
“ It must be confessed, that the impressions hitherto  
“ made upon their minds, in consequence of the irre-  
“ gularities committed by Englishmen at Canton, are  
“ unfavourable even to the degree of considering them  
“ as the worst among Europeans; these impressions are  
“ communicated to that tribunal in the capital, which  
“ reports to, and advises the Emperor upon all concerns  
“ with foreign countries. It is therefore essential, by  
“ a conduct particularly regular and circumspect, to  
“ impress them with *new, more just, and more favour-*  
“ *able* ideas of Englishmen; and to shew that, even to  
“ the lowest officer in the sea and land service, or in the  
“ civil line, they are capable of maintaining, by exam-  
“ ple and by discipline, due order, sobriety, and subor-  
“ dination, among their respective inferiors. Though  
“ the people of China have not the smallest share in the  
“ government, yet it is a maxim invariably pursued by  
“ their superiors, to support the meanest Chinese in



“ any difference with a stranger, and if the occasion  
 “ should happen, to avenge his blood ; of which, in-  
 “ deed, there was a fatal instance not long since at Can-  
 “ ton, where the gunner of an English vessel, who had  
 “ been very innocently the cause of the death of a na-  
 “ tive peasant, was executed for it, notwithstanding the  
 “ utmost united efforts on the part of the several Euro-  
 “ pean factors at Canton to save him : peculiar caution  
 “ and mildness must consequently be observed in every  
 “ sort of intercourse or accidental meeting with any of  
 “ the poorest individuals of the country.

“ His Excellency, who well knows that he need not  
 “ recommend to Sir Erasmus Gower to make whatever  
 “ regulations prudence may dictate on the occasion, for  
 “ the persons under his immediate command, as he  
 “ hopes Capt. Mackintosh will do for the officers and  
 “ crew of the Hindostan, trusts also that the propriety  
 “ and necessity of such regulations, calculated to pre-  
 “ serve the credit of the English name, and the interest  
 “ of the mother country in these remote parts, will en-  
 “ sure a steady and cheerful obedience.

“ These same motives, he flatters himself, will ope-  
 “ rate likewise upon all the persons immediately con-  
 “ nected with, or in the service of, the embassy.

“ His Excellency declares, that he shall be ready to  
 “ encourage and to report favourably hereupon the  
 “ good conduct of those who shall be found to deserve  
 “ it ; so he will think it his duty, in case of misconduct  
 “ or disobedience of orders, to report the same with  
 “ equal exactness, and to suspend or dismiss transgres-  
 “ sors, as the occasion may require. Nor, if offence  
 “ should be offered to a Chinese, or a misdemeanor of



“ any kind be committed, which may be punishable by  
“ their laws, will he deem himself bound to interfere  
“ for the purpose of endeavouring to ward off or miti-  
“ gate their severity.

“ His Excellency relies on Lieutenant-Colonel Ben-  
“ son, commandant of his guard, that he will have a  
“ strict and watchful eye over them : vigilance, as to  
“ their personal demeanor, is as requisite in the present  
“ circumstances, as it is, though from other motives,  
“ in regard to the conduct of an enemy in time of  
“ war. The guards are to be kept constantly together,  
“ and regularly exercised in all military evolutions ;  
“ nor are any of them to absent themselves from on  
“ board ship, or from whatever place may be allotted  
“ them for their dwelling on shore, without leave from  
“ his Excellency, or commanding officer. None of the  
“ mechanics, or servants, are to leave the ship, or usual  
“ dwelling on shore, without leave from himself, or  
“ from Mr. Maxwell ; and his Excellency expects, that  
“ the gentlemen in his train will shew the example of  
“ subordination, by communicating their wishes to him  
“ before they go, on any occasion, from the ship, or  
“ usual dwelling-place on shore.

“ No boxes or packages, of any kind, are to be re-  
“ moved from the ship, or, afterwards, from the place  
“ where they shall be brought on shore, without the  
“ Ambassador's leave, or a written order from Mr. Bar-  
“ row, the comptroller ; such order describing the na-  
“ ture, number, and dimensions of such packages.

“ His Excellency, in the most earnest manner, re-  
“ quests that no persons whatever belonging to the  
“ ships be suffered, and he desires that none of his suite,



“ guard, mechanics, or servants, presume to offer, for  
“ sale, or propose to purchase, in the way of traffic,  
“ the smallest article of merchandise of any kind, un-  
“ der any pretence whatever, without leave from him  
“ previously obtained. The necessity of avoiding the  
“ least appearance of traffic accompanying an embassy  
“ to Pe-kin was such, as to induce the East India Com-  
“ pany to forego the profits of a new market, and de-  
“ terred them from shipping any goods for sale in the  
“ Hindostan, as being destined to attend upon the em-  
“ bassy, the dignity and importance of which, in the  
“ prejudiced eyes of the Chinese, would be utterly lost,  
“ and the good consequences expected from it, even  
“ on commercial points, totally prevented, if any actual  
“ transactions, though for trifles, for the purpose of  
“ gain, should be discovered amongst any of the per-  
“ sons concerned in conveying, or attending an Ambal-  
“ sador ; of which the report would soon infallibly swell  
“ into a general system of trading. From this strict-  
“ ness his Excellency will willingly relax whenever  
“ such advances shall have been made by him in nego-  
“ tiation as will secure the object of his mission : and  
“ when a permission from him to an European, to dis-  
“ pose of any particular article of merchandise, shall be  
“ considered as a favour granted to the Chinese pur-  
“ chaser. His Excellency is bound to punish, as far as  
“ in him lies, any the slightest deviation from this regu-  
“ lation ; he will easily have in his power to do so, in  
“ regard to the persons immediately in his train of ser-  
“ vice. The discipline of the navy will render it equal-  
“ ly easy to Sir Erasmus Gower, in respect to those un-  
“ der his immediate command ; and the East-India



“ Company have, by their order of the 5th of Septem-  
 “ ber, 1792, and by their letter of the 8th of the same  
 “ month and year, fully authoris'd his Excellency to  
 “ enforce compliance with the same regulation, among  
 “ the officers of the Hindostan. A copy of the said  
 “ order, and an extract from the said letter, here fol-  
 “ low, in order that Captain Mackintosh may commu-  
 “ nicate the same to his officers. His Excellency de-  
 “ pends upon him to prevent any breach or evasion of  
 “ the same among any of his crew.”

*At a Court of Directors held on Wednesday the 5th of  
 September, 1792.*

“ Resolved,

“ That the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Ma-  
 “ cartney be authorized to suspend, or dismiss the com-  
 “ mander, or any officer of the Hindostan, who shall  
 “ be guilty of a breach of covenants, or disobedience of  
 “ orders from the Secret Committee, or from his Ex-  
 “ cellency, during the continuation of the embassy to  
 “ China.

(Signed)

“ W. RAMSEY, Sec.”

*Extract from the Chairman and Deputy Chairman's Letter  
 to Lord Macartney, dated the 8th of September, 1792.*

“ The Secret Committee having given orders to Cap-  
 “ tain Mackintosh, of the Hindostan, to put himself  
 “ entirely under your Excellency's direction, as long as  
 “ may be necessary for the purpose of the embassy, we  
 “ have inclosed a copy of his instructions, and of the  
 “ covenants which he has entered into, together with an  
 “ account of his private trade, and that of his officers :  
 “ there is no intention whatever, on the part of the  
 “ court, to permit private trade in any other port, or



“ place, than Canton, to which the ship is ultimately  
“ destined, unless your Excellency is satisfied that such  
“ private trade will not prove of detriment to the dig-  
“ nity and importance annexed to the embassy, or to the  
“ consequences expected therefrom, in which case your  
“ consent in writing becomes necessary to authorize any  
“ commercial transaction by Captain Mackintosh, or  
“ any of his officers, as explained in the instructions  
“ from the Secret Committee. But as we cannot be too  
“ guarded with respect to trade, and the consequences  
“ which may result from any attempt for that purpose,  
“ we hereby authorise your Excellency to suspend, or  
“ dismiss the commander, or any officer of the Hin-  
“ dostan, who shall be guilty of a breach of covenants,  
“ or disobedience of orders from the Secret Committee  
“ or from your Excellency, during the continuance of  
“ the present embassy.”

“ His Excellency takes this opportunity of declaring  
also, that however determined his sense of duty makes  
him to forward the objects of his mission, and to watch,  
detect, and punish, as far as in his power, any crime,  
disobedience of orders, or other behaviour tending to  
endanger, or delay the success of the present undertak-  
ing, or to bring discredit on the English character, or  
occasion any difficulty, or embarrassment to the embassy;  
so in the like manner shall he feel himself happy in be-  
ing able at all times to report and reward the merit, as  
well as to promote the interest, and indulge the wishes,  
of any person who has accompanied him on this occa-  
sion, as much as may be consistent with the honour and  
welfare of the public.



“ In case of the absence or engagements of his Excellency, at any particular moment, application may be made in his room to Sir George Staunton, whom his Majesty was pleased to honour with a commission of minister plenipotentiary, to act on such occasions.”

*Given on board his Majesty's*

*ship the Lion, the 16th*

*day of July, 1793.*

By his Excellency's Command,

(Signed)

ACHESON MAXWELL, } Secretaries.  
EDWARD WINDER, }

Some observations and injunctions of his Lordship, delivered at the same time as the above, did not, however, seem to accord with the spirit of liberty and personal security, which accompanies an Englishman wherever he is placed. Hitherto there had not, however, been an attempt made to carry them into execution ; but now it was intimated, that all the servants of the Ambassador were to consider themselves as under martial law, and that they would be punished according to its regulations, in any case of disobedience or neglect. It is true, that the experiment was never made in regard to the civil servants of the embassy ; but the alarm which this information gave, was deeply felt and inwardly resented. To the honour of Sir George Staunton, he not only disapproved, but reprobated in very severe terms this measure, as repugnant to, and subversive of, the right of Englishmen, and the principles of justice.

The order, forbidding any traffic with the natives, we believe, was punctually observed, as far as gain was



concerned ; but a private in the infantry, composing a part of the Ambassador's guard, was reported to the commanding officer as having procured a small quantity of samtchoo, or spiritous liquor, by the assistance of a Chinese soldier ; he was immediately confined, and being brought to a court marshal, of which a corporal was president, he was sentenced to receive sixty lashes.

This sentence being approved by Colonel Benson, the British soldiers were drawn up in form, in the outer court of the palace where we resided, and the offender being fastened to one of the pillars of the great portico, received his punishment without mitigation.

The just abhorrence excited in the breasts of the Chinese, at this cruel conduct, was demonstrably proved by their words and looks. They expressed their astonishment that a people pretending to profess the mildest and most benevolent religion on earth, could be guilty of such flagrant inattention to its merciful dictates. One of the principal mandarins, who knew a little English, expressed the general sentiment, "*Englishmen too much cruel, too much bad.*"

But it seems as though the officers were determined, at all events, to impress the Chinese with an unfavourable opinion of the English character, for it appears that Sir Erasmus Gower, the commander of the *Lion*, went a step farther towards alienating the affections of the Chinese from our countrymen ; for when that ship lay at Chusan, a native brought a bottle of samtchoo on board, intending to exchange it for some European article ; his design being discovered, the Captain ordered him to be seized and punished with twelve lashes, in the presence of numbers of his countrymen,



though a complaint preferred to a mandarin would obtained the satisfaction necessary, and saved the appearance of arbitrary and cruel conduct.

The manners of the Chinese, indeed, revolt at the public exhibitions of these punishments: they are at a loss to reconcile European behaviour with European professions. Our faith and practice, in almost every instance, appeared to them to be opposite; and these circumstances we have had the pain to record, as well as several others which occasionally happened, instead of removing unfavourable prejudices, seemed to legitimate and sanction their continuance.

Having previously been informed that the embassy was to proceed to Pe-kin, where its final issue was to be arranged, we set out from Jehol on the morning of the 21st of September, after a state of imprisonment of fourteen days, for the liberty we had been encouraged to expect, was never granted.

In this place it may not be improper to give some account of two extraordinary rocks in the vicinity of Jehol, which the darkness of the morning on which we entered that city had prevented our seeing. One is an immense pillar of stone, about an hundred feet high, small at the base, and gradually spreading towards the top, from several parts of which issue streams of the purest water. This lofty object is situated on the pinnacle of a mountain, which adds to its sublime effect. The upper part of this rock is rather flat, and appears to be cloathed with verdure and shrubs, but is totally inaccessible. Some convulsion of nature must certainly have placed it here, and it is impossible to view it from the valley below, without the strongest emotions of



wonder and fear. The Chinese give it the name of Pan-suiashaung, and justly esteem it as one of the first natural curiosities of the country.

The other is rather a clustre of rocks, whose greatest height is nearly two hundred feet: these stand likewise on the summit of a mountain, and from one point of view, appear as one solid mass. Perhaps the world does not produce two grander objects of the kind.

Soon after we left Jehol, we passed the Emperor's pagoda, where we saw the tributary King of Cochin China's Ambassador and suite, advancing with the annual acknowledgment.

We slept at the imperial palace of Callachottueng, mentioned before, where we lost an artillery-man of the bloody-flux, of which alarming malady several others among the military were ill. The attendant mandarin expressed great apprehension, lest the Emperor should hear of this circumstance, and be alarmed on account of any contagious disorder. The body was therefore sent on to the next village, where we breakfasted, and afterwards interred our companion with military honours.

This morning we received intelligence that the Emperor had left Jehol, and that it would be absolutely necessary to advance two stages without halting, in order that the palaces might be at liberty to accommodate his majesty's attendants. In consequence of this notice, we reached this day Waung-chau-yeng, where we slept.

Pursuing the same route as we had done before, and retracing the same objects, our journey to Pe-kin was barren of incidents or novelty. We arrived there on the afternoon of the 26th, and took up our residence in



the palace which had been appropriated for our use before we set out for Jehol. The morning of the 27th, Lord Macartney spent in examining the arrangements which had been made during his absence, which seemed to meet his entire approbation ; and as our stay here, at this period, was considered as certain to be of some continuance, every preparation and provision was made for the domestic comfort of the establishment, and the splendour of the embassy.

The state canopy was erected in the principal room of the Ambassador's apartments : it was made of flowered crimson satin, with festoons and curtains, fringed with gold ; the back displayed the arms of Great-Britain ; under its cover five chairs of state were placed, the center one being elevated above the rest for the Ambassador. At the other end of the apartment were hung whole length portraits of their Britannic Majesties. The whole formed an appearance for an audience-chamber, equal to the consequence of the country represented, and wanted no appropriate ornament.

These dispositions being completed, nothing remained to perfect the domestic establishment, but the regulation of the different tables to be provided for the different departments of the household ; which it was thought best to delay till the arrival of the Emperor in Pe-kin.

Captain Mackintosh of the Hindostan now proposed to set off on the Monday to join his ship, in order to proceed to Canton ; there to take in his cargo for England, having seen, as he conceived, a favourable com-



mencement of this embassy, in which his employers had such a predominant interest.

On the 28th the arrival of the emperor at the imperial palace in Pe-kin was announced by a grand discharge of artillery.

The occupations of this day in the palace of the Ambassador were confined entirely to writing letters for England, of which Captain Mackintosh was to take the charge; it being considered as a settled arrangement with the court of Pe-kin, that the English embassy were to remain during the winter, to carry on the important negotiations with which it was entrusted.

The next day his Excellency was visited by several mandarins; and some packages of broad cloths of British manufacture were put in a state of readiness for being presented to the Emperor.

Sickness at this time prevailed so much among the soldiers attached to the embassy, that more than half of them were unable to do duty; it was, therefore, found expedient to establish an hospital in some of the vacant buildings within the precincts of the palace for their reception, and more speedy recovery.

On the 1st of October, a mandarin requested, in the name of the Emperor, that the ordnance presents might be sent to the palace of Yeumen-manyeumen, where they were to be proved and examined; which, contrary to our expectations, was done by the Chinese themselves instead of our own artillery men, who had been taken from England for the purpose of displaying their superiority in the science of engineering to the Emperor. The chariots and other presents were also removed to the same place, where the carpenters and the other



mechanics went to hang them on their springs ; their service, like that of the artillery, was, however, in a great measure dispensed with ; they not being permitted to finally adjust them for representation.

The following day, the Ambassador received a formal invitation to wait on the emperor on the morrow ; in compliance with this request his Excellency went in a private manner, and transacted business with the officers of state. The conference lasted for two hours : and there were no apparent reasons for supposing that the objects of the mission were not in a progressive state of success.

The Ambassador now settled the order and disposition of the tables for the different departments of the household ; and every thing seemed to indicate a residence of some permanency at Pe-kin, which proved highly gratifying to us, who had no other means of judging of the probable success of the object of our embassy, than the general arrangements made for its domestic establishment.

The cabinets of British manufacture were now conveyed to the imperial residence by Chinese porters, and the presents, consisting of jewellery, plated goods, hardware, and cutlery, were now unpacked ; and the whole equally divided between the Emperor and the Grand Choulac.

On the fifth, the Emperor visited the palace of Yeu-men-manyeumen, to inspect the presents which were lodged there ; on this occasion he was pleased to order eight ingots of silver to be distributed to every European person attending. The English artificers, who were employed in cleaning and completing the carriages,



and fitting up a model of an English first-rate man of war, which had been sent with the presents, described his Majesty as being about five feet ten inches high ; of a slender form, but well-proportioned ; and that his countenance presented a regularity of features, free from the decrepitude of age. His deportment was attractively affable ; and the dignity of the prince was only displayed in the superior manners of the man. He was habited in a robe of yellow silk, and a cap of black velvet, surmounted with a red ball, and adorned with a peacock's feather. He wore silk boots, embroidered with gold, and a blue silk sash round his waist.

The opinion his Majesty formed of the presents could only be collected from their being generally received ; for we could not learn that he had expressed any opinion where it could possibly be conveyed to us. Two camera obscuras were, however, returned, as being suited only to the amusement of children.

A number of bales, containing a variety of broad and narrow cloths of English manufacture, with a quantity of Camblets, two barrel organs, and the remainder of such presents as were not damaged, were now removed from the Ambassador's palace by the Chinese employed on these occasions, and Mr. Plumb sometimes accompanied the presents to explain the nature and application of them, or performed that office to the mandarins, previous to their departure.

As it was now considered, as a matter of certainty, that the embassy would remain for some time at Pe-kin, the superb and elegant horse furniture which had been brought over for his Excellency and Sir George Staunton, were unpacked and got ready for immediate use.



A number of presents were this day received from the Emperor for the use of their Britannic Majesties, the Ambassador and suite.

At noon on the 6th, the Ambassador again went to visit the Emperor ; but on his arrival at court he fainted away, and being conveyed home, continued indisposed during the remaining part of the day. In the meanwhile, Sir George Staunton and Colonel Benson distributed to each of the soldiers and servants, some pieces of silk, others of dongaree, a kind of nankeen, and a piece of silver, of about sixteen ounces, as a present from his Imperial Majesty.

The optical, mechanical, and mathematical instruments being removed from the palace of Yeumen-manyeumen, the gentlemen and mechanics were dismissed from their attendance there. On a trial of the powers of some of the articles before the mandarins, they failed in the effects ascribed to them, and others excited little surprise or admiration in the Chinese literati, who viewed them; this the good Dr. Dinwiddie and Mr. Barrow immediately attributed to their gross ignorance and obstinacy.

A report began to circulate, that we were soon to quit Pe-kin. It occasioned a considerable share of speculation, but it obtained less credit than afterwards appeared to be due to it : the carpenters were however employed in strengthening the cases which contained the presents for St. James's, and in the afternoon of the 7th this report, which at first met with only a faint belief in general, was confirmed by an order from the Ambassador to prepare for our departure on the Wednesday following, being only two days notice.



Our surprize and concern may easily be conceived. After a variety of fatigues, we had consoled ourselves that we should now have enjoyed some repose; but all personal considerations were absorbed in public affairs, in which the humblest individual felt an interest. The grand objects of the embassy were evidently unaccomplished; and in our attachment to our country, its honour, and advantage, we forgot every other care.

To submit, however, we were obliged, and nothing appeared to us possible to be done but an attempt to gain a little respite, till the baggage was packed up and arranged; this seemed a reasonable demand, the attendant mandarin therefore made the requisition, and an order arrived from the Grand Choulaa to suspend our departure till Friday: but judge our astonishment, when the next morning this was countermanded by the Emperor himself, and we were expressly ordered to depart on the day first intimated.

It is not to be supposed that our situation could enable us to judge of the reasons on which this unexpected mandate was founded. It was reported by the Chinese, that as the business on the part of the Emperor was already completed, he was surprized the English Ambassador was not anxious to return to his own country. It was also said, that his Majesty was alarmed at the number of our sick, lest any contagion should be communicated to his subjects: nor were there persons wanting who ascribed his determination to an aversion contracted against us, from the skill and ingenuity we evinced in those engines of destruction, the brass mortars, which were tried in his presence. It was said he deprecated the spirit of a people, who, contrary to the avowed be-



nigh principles of their religion, had made such a proficiency in arts which seemed to contradict them all.

Many other reports of a similar nature were propagated; but the reason assigned by the Chinese government was the mere approach of winter, when the rivers would be frozen, and the journey to Canton, through the northern provinces, be attended with inconvenience and crowded with impediments.

To speculate on the policy that actuated the court of Pe-kin on this occasion, would be vain; neither shall we presume to ascribe it to any misconduct or mismanagement; but the manner in which the embassy was dismissed was certainly ungracious, and mortifying in the extreme; for supposing it to be the policy of the Chinese government, that no foreign minister shall be received, but on particular occasions, and that he shall not remain in the country after he has finished his particular mission; it does not appear that the business was at all advanced which Lord Macartney was employed to negotiate; and his Lordship certainly would not have formed domestic arrangements, if he had not considered himself certain of remaining at Pe-kin throughout the winter, and of succeeding in the object of his embassy.

At this time a marine, who, with three others, had been taken from on board the Lion, to fill the vacancies occasioned by the death of some of the soldiers, died of the flux; and to prevent this circumstance from being known, his corpse was carried away in the night.

Lord Macartney now sent his own state carriage as a present to the Grand Choulaa, who refused to accept



it. It was then re-demanded, but no answer was returned to this request, and so short was the period allotted us to stay, and so much was to be done in it, that there was no time to make farther enquiries concerning it, or the reasons for the behaviour on the part of the minister by whom it was refused.

The confusion arising from this sudden and unexpected event, rendered it impossible to arrange the baggage with any order. We huddled it together in the best manner that circumstances would permit. Some articles which could not be packed up, or were now useless, were given to the mandarins; the natives took care to purloin a share, and Lord Macartney's servants had the canopy of state.

We set out on the road that leads to Tong-tchew at a very early hour on the morning of the 9th, and reached that town in the evening. Even the thoughts of being on the return to our country failed to relieve the gloom of disappointment; and to increase our unpleasant sensations, we met with neglect and wretched accommodations compared to what we had experienced before; for the apartments in which we were lodged here were only temporary sheds, hung with straw matting.

We have already mentioned the conduct of the Grand Choulaa, respecting Lord Macartney's chariot. On our arrival, however, at Tong-tchew, it had found its way thither before us, and was stationed opposite the place appointed for the reception of the embassy, surrounded by crowds of Chinese; many of its ornaments were defaced, and it was otherwise injured. It was, however, drawn down to the river side, and a case being made



for it on the spot, to secure it from farther injury, it was re-confirmed to the hold of a junk, and finally sent to figure at Madras.

Next morning, on proceeding to the side of the river, we found the junks intended for our reception. The baggage was put on board with all possible expedition, but not without a degree of confusion beyond what we had yet known; for all the attention before paid to the Ambassador and his suite seemed now to be forgotten; things being, however, at length adjusted, we went on board our junks, and the attendant mandarin and his party followed in separate vessels. Soon after the embarkation was completed, dinner was served up; and at an early hour we retired to rest, after a most fatiguing day.

On the 11th, at a very early hour, the junks were unmoored, and the fleet proceeded down the river; but as we have already given a description of the country through which it flows, and the local circumstances attending of it, we shall pass on to the period when we quitted the natural for an artificial river; indeed nothing occurred worthy of observation, but that though we still attracted the notice of the inhabitants who lived near the river, the respectful and ceremonious attentions of our former voyage were entirely discontinued.

On the 16th we left the channel of the river, and entered a canal constructed with infinite labour and expense. The sides are masonry throughout its extent; and at certain distances locks, in the form of a crescent, are erected, which confining the water to a narrow passage in the middle of the canal, occasions a moderate fall of about three feet. The motion of the junks is ac-



celerated in passing these locks, and continues to some distance; and to prevent the vessels receiving any damage from striking against the walls of the lock, men are always ready to let down large leathern pads, which effectually break the shock.

In the course of this day we passed a number of these locks, whose construction and effects we found invariably the same.

For some days we sailed through a country rich in agriculture and population. We observed plantations of the shrub which produces the imperial and gunpowder tea. In size and figure it resembles the gooseberry-bush. Imperial tea is the produce of the first blossoms; gunpowder tea is a collection of the successive blossoms as they appear.

Not only the exterior marks of respect had been withdrawn from the embassy by the Chinese, but we even found our provisions deficient, both in quantity and quality. A representation to the mandarin, however, produced immediate redress in this particular; and it was farther reported, that the same benevolent character had exerted himself with effect to do away some very unfavourable impressions, with which a Tartar mandarin had prejudiced the Emperor against the English, by representing them as divested of every amiable quality, and addicted to every vice.

On the 20th we passed numerous plantations of tobacco; a plant cultivated here in the greatest variety, and to the greatest extent of any country in the world. Indeed smoking being the universal practice from infancy to old age, the quantity of tobacco consumed in China must exceed all moderate calculation.



Several considerable cities appeared at a small distance from the canal ; the garrisons from which advanced to the banks to give the usual salute, and the people to gratify their curiosity.

We passed a number of bridges and several corn-mills, worked by water, and apparently on the same construction as those in Europe.

A lofty pagoda, of eight stories, opened to our view on the morning of the 23d ; but not different apparently from those we had before seen. Next day we saw the Chinese post pass along the road on the margin of the canal. The letters are inclosed in a large bamboo basket, hooped with cane ; it is then locked, and the key is given into the custody of one of the soldiers, who delivers it to the post-master. The basket is then strapped on the courier's shoulders, and being decorated with a number of little bells at the bottom, they make a loud jingling when shaken by the motion of the horse, and announce the approach of the post. Five light-horsemen escort the courier ; and as the fleetest horses are selected, and changed at every stage, the mails in China are conveyed with extraordinary expedition and safety.

The junks anchored on the evening of the following day in the heart of a large city, through which the canal passes. A continual succession of bridges connects the banks, and these are guarded by soldiers, who suffer no vessel to pass till a mandarin has inspected it. The fleet here received a salute of three guns, and a numerous body of soldiers lined the banks, who, wearing large helmets, and being completely armed, had a very military appearance.



We soon arrived at Kord-cheeaung, a city of equal magnitude with the last ; in the centre of which we saw a pagoda of ten stories high, each surrounded by a gallery.

After passing several large cities in the course of this day's voyage, we anchored for the night at Lee-yaung-goa, which was illuminated in honour of the Ambassador. Public attentions, indeed, began again to be more frequent, and ceremoniously paid.

We passed the city of Kaunghoo on the 26th, and found such an amazing number of junks lying there that our passage was impeded for some time, and we were obliged to come to anchor, in order to give opportunity for a passage to be made between them. The canal winds through this place and its banks slope down to the water in a very beautiful form.

Every spot in our passage gave testimony to the existence of art, and the effects of industry, as well as of prodigious population. On the 29th, passing several extensive fields, we observed the peasants ploughing ; they worked with oxen, and though their ploughs were of a very clumsy form, compared with those of England, the labour seemed to be neatly and properly executed.

A repetition of the meagre incidents that fell in our way would be tiresome. Towns, bridges, locks, and junks, fields covered with plenty, and people beyond calculation, were now common objects.

On the 30th we saw a fleet of junks laden with tea for the Canton market ; nor was it an unnatural, or uninteresting observation which many of us made, that in the chance of commerce, some of their cargoes might



ultimately be consigned to our own country, and arrive there before us.

The prospects around us were now constantly enlivened by pagodas and country seats; some of which were adorned with beautiful gardens, and others surrounded with the finest orchards we had ever beheld.

On the 31st in the morning, the fleet passed through a walled city, where the vast number of junks which covered its canal, justify the opinion of its extensive commerce. In its neighbourhood there are large plantations of tea and tobacco, and the next morning we passed several fields of cotton, which to us formed a pleasing and novel appearance.

The canal became much more expanded; and on the 2d of November we reached a city of great extent and trade. Several canals meet here; and on the south side of it is a bay, communicating with the Yellow river, in which the noblest fleets of Europe might ride.

The hills in the vicinity are beautifully green; their summits are crowned with pagodas, while villas and gardens adorn the lower slopes.

Passing through the bay, in which various opposite currents meet, we soon entered the river, and found ourselves again embosomed in a rich and delightful country.

Town opened on our enchanted senses after town; and no words can convey an adequate idea of the picturesque scenery that surrounded us.

About the hour of dinner, we arrived at a town of unusual magnitude and beauty, through which the river flowed for the space of three miles; the houses were



uniformly built of brick, varied with a bluish-coloured stone, and generally rise to two stories high.

Here we received the military honours so often mentioned; and indeed it may in general be observed, that there was neither town nor village through which we passed, that had not its mandarin and its proportionate number of guards and troops, not only in China, but also in the remote and less populous regions of Tartary.

In the afternoon we anchored, for some time, at another considerable town, where the junks stopped to take in a supply of wine. This town is situated on the side of a large lake, which in some places, was divided only by a bank from the river on which we were sailing.

The country soon after assumed a swampy appearance; the natural consequence of so many rivers, canals, and lakes, which intersect it, and promote its commercial intercourse.

The weather was cold and the mornings frosty. The climate, unquestionably, is affected by the large bodies of water which every where abound in this part of the country. We now understood, that it was the yellow river on which we were sailing, probably so called from some communications with the Yellow sea. We passed several lakes, and on the 3d saw a number of fishing boats employed in their vocations, and procured from them a small fish, about the size of a sprat, but in flavour and form resembling the haddock. On the opposite side of this lake we discovered a very large city, built with dark-coloured stone, and roofed with tile of the same hue. This place appears to be about eight miles in circumference; and from the dress and manners of



its inhabitants, we could easily determine was both commercial and polite. At the extremity of the wall of this city we dropped our anchor for the night.

Next day we passed two other large lakes ; and soon after reached the town of Kiang-fou, which is large and walled. A mandarin and his guards appeared, to give the customary salutes ; and at each end of the line of troops, a temporary arch was erected, with a platform reaching down to the river, very elegantly adorned, to afford a landing to the Ambassador, should he happen to be disposed to stop. At a small distance tents were pitched, in the center of which was the mandarin's pavilion, where a collation was ready for the entertainment of his Excellency and the mandarins in our fleet. But the order of the voyage prevented them from accepting this tribute of hospitality and politeness.

Beyond this, we came to another large town of superior beauty, where we stopped to receive a supply of provisions, and to be furnished with men to tow the junks. Here we were gratified with the sight of a number of fine women, whose features were beautiful and complexions uncommonly fair.

In the afternoon we passed a town which could not be less than nine miles in circumference. The walls are of immense height, and seem to be ancient. Several hundreds of junks were moored along its wharfs.

On the 5th we entered a large lake, adorned with a variety of beautiful islands ; the most considerable of them contains the palace of a mandarin, with most elegant summer-houses, plantations, and gardens ; here also a lofty rock rose amid the trees, and supported on its top a stately pagoda.



We soon entered another river, whose banks became highly picturesque, on which, and the adjoining heights, we saw a variety of villas, with gilt pyramids rising from the roofs, which gave them the appearance of Gothic architecture.

At the city of Mee-you-mee-awng we stopped to take in the customary supply of provisions. Nature seems to have formed this place for the purposes of navigation and commerce, and rural beauty to have fixed her residence in its vicinity.

Another object here presented itself of a very different nature, and which, by its contrast, acquired additional importance. A body of soldiers were drawn up on an esplanade, the line of which extended near a mile; they were divided into companies distinguished by the variety of their uniforms, which, together with the number and colours of their standards, offered a very beautiful spectacle.

No other object, for a considerable time, attracted our notice, except a small dock-yard for building junks, enclosed in a fine grove, which formed a pleasing and picturesque scene.

The river now appeared to be proceeding boldly on into a rich, fertile country, but of more unequal surface than any we had yet seen; when by an unexpected meander, it brought us back to the city. Here we passed through another large bridge, near a circular bastion which commanded, by its battery, every direction of the river.

On another turn of the stream we discovered a very fine hill before us, the summit of which is crowned with a magnificent pagoda, and the declivities beautified



with all the decoration that could be conferred by beautiful gardens and elegant buildings. At the foot of this elevated spot are two stone gateways, which open to a walk that winds gradually up the hill to the pagoda.

This hill appears to form a part of the gardens belonging to the mandarin, whose palace is situated on the banks of the river, from whence a broad flight of steps ascends to the gate of the outer court. This edifice, in its size and appearance, is suited to the dignity of its possessor, and, like other buildings of the same kind and character in China, is perfectly uniform in all its parts. The body of the house rises to three stories, and the wings are diminished to two. A paved court occupies a large space in the front; and the whole is enclosed by a wall, including a large garden, that extends to the beautiful hill, of which a very inadequate sketch has been already given.

The country continued to make advances in beauty; fields full of fertility, with their shady enclosures; farms embosomed in orchards; villas, and their gardens, we had long been accustomed to behold, but now a mountain rose before us, not rugged and barren, but verdant to its very top; while innumerable herds of cattle, and flocks of sheep, adorned its sloping pastures.

Another town soon succeeded, and to that a lake, surrounded by hills of the same kind, and covered with sheep and cattle. From this delightful situation we passed through a lock, and between a draw-bridge into a canal, that divides another large commercial town. Here we observed a brick-kiln, and a pile of bricks just made; the materials of which appeared to be a kind of sand, mixed up with the mud of the river; the kiln



itself was built with the same kind of materials, in the form of a pyramid.

In the evening we passed a large walled city, apparently similar to those we had before seen, and several pagodas being illuminated, in honour of the Ambassador and mandarins, had a very pleasing appearance amid the gloom of night.

The Chinese houses are not only varied in their stile and decorations, but even the towns are in some measure marked by the colour of the materials of which they are built. On the 6th of November we entered a town of a most dismal hue ; it was wholly erected of black brick, and as the houses were more lofty than those generally seen in this country, being none less than two and many four stories high, its peculiar character made the stronger impression on our minds.

We passed a stone bridge of three arches, and soon after reached the mandarin's palace ; a stone building of singular architecture. On each side of the principal gate are two lofty walls painted red, to prevent the building from being seen but in a front view. The gateway is enriched with sculpture, and the usual accompaniments of Chinese characters ; it is of stone, and supports an apartment. The house itself is painted of different colours, with a stone gallery in front, and covered with a roof of the same material.

The mandarin who resided here had caused a temporary stage, or platform, to be erected, from the palace to the side of the river, in case the Ambassador, and the mandarins, should find it convenient to land. The roof of this building was covered with silk of various colours, a number of lamps fancifully adorned with



gauze and ribands were suspended from it, and the floor was covered with a fine, variegated matting. He had also caused a large screen, or curtain, of this matting, to be fixed on the opposite side of the water, for the purpose of hiding some ruinous buildings, that would otherwise have disgraced the gay picture he had contrived by their deformity.

The foldiers under the command of this mandarin were of a different appearance from any we had seen, as they wore red hats with a very high and pointed crown ; on the side of which was a brass plate, that appeared to be fastened with yellow ribands.

Of the elegant hospitality of this mandarin we were not allowed to partake, by the circumstance of our voyage.

A succession of towns, locks, bridges, and pagodas, appeared in rapid succession for some hours, and in the afternoon we saw a very large country residence at some distance, with a lofty pagoda rising, as it perspectively appeared, from the centre of it. The tower terminated in a cupola, with a spiral ornament rising from the top, crowned with a ball, from each side of which a chain hung down, till it touched the upper story of the building.

After passing this structure, the banks of the river were, for a considerable distance, so high, as to obscure all view of the adjacent country.

In consequence of a complaint against some of the captains of the junks, for embezzlement of provisions, the grand mandarin instituted an enquiry after the fleet. came to an anchor this evening ; and being convinced of the truth of the charge, sentenced the culprits to be



bastinadoed or bamboosed, which was immediately carried into execution.

In the course of the next day, we had a transient view of Chinese husbandry, in the practical parts of digging, manuring, and plowing; and from the awkward implements employed, our admiration of the fertility of the country, and the labour of the natives was increased.

We passed another town, the houses of which were covered with plaister, and many of them three stories high, and painted black. At the entrance and the extremity of this place of darkness, which is very large, we sailed under a noble arch. We soon reached another town of the same description, where many of the houses projected over the river, and here our junks were towed by boats.

So various were the features of the river, and so frequent was the intersection of canals, that we were often at a loss to ascertain whether we were sailing on the former or the latter. This, however, is of little importance, as the general outline of the country has been faithfully delineated, though to catch every object would have been impossible.

As it was intended to forward the heavy baggage from Hoang-tchew to Chusan, in order to its being conveyed by sea to Canton, arrangements were made for this purpose. A party of the gentlemen of the embassy, and servants, were to accompany it, and the Ambassador and the remainder were to proceed over land, with only absolute necessities.

The country still continued the same for some distance, but at length became more unequal; towns and



villages rose in constant succession, and the pagodas on the heights seemed to multiply. On the 9th the fleet was ordered to anchor in the open country near the shore, when Van-Tadge-In, the grand mandarin, visited every junk, the owners of which he briefly examined, and then ordered them to suffer the punishment of the bamboo. Their crime we could never learn.

Passing several plantations of tallow trees, we arrived at Hoang-tchew, on the afternoon of the 10th, when the junks were all fastened together, and every person belonging to the suite expressly forbid to land on any account. Indeed, a body of Chinese soldiers pitched their tents opposite us, as if to awe us into compliance. During the time we lay here, no circumstance happened worthy of being recorded. The mandarin of Hoang-tchew, who had accompanied us from Pe-kin, took his leave of us; he was a superior to Van-Tadge-In, and had of course assumed the supreme direction during this part of our voyage.

The heavy baggage, which was to be sent to Chusan, being separated from the light articles we were to carry with us to Canton, Colonel Benson, Captain Mackintosh, and party, set off to join the Hindostan at Chusan, on the 5th day after our arrival; and the same day we also left Hoang-tchew, after the Ambassador had distributed ten dollars to the owner of each junk, for their respective crews.

The Ambassador, accompanied by his retinue, proceeded on the 14th of November for the Green river, where we were again to embark in smaller junks. On passing the city gates, the embassy received the customary salute. Between the two rivers, the distance could



not be less than seven miles, and the whole space was covered by the city and suburbs, and lined with soldiers, who secured us from the pressure of an innumerable multitude of people, who crowded to see us. The streets are narrow, but well paved, the houses two and three stories high, and the magnificence of the shops was beyond any thing we had hitherto seen. In commerce and population, Hoang-tchew is a city of the first magnitude.

At noon we reached the green river, where the Ambassador was received with military honours. The troops were armed with helmets, and made with their accompaniments a splendid appearance.

A triumphal arch, with a platform descending to the Ambassador's junk, had been erected for the occasion. Our embarkation was attended by a concourse of people, great beyond description. Some were mounted on buffaloes, which animal carried several at a time on its back, and appeared very docile; others were in carts, drawn by the same animal.

Our junks were small, but very neatly fitted up, and our voyage was continued between ranges of mountains, presenting the most romantic scenery. The vallies were covered with tallow and mulberry trees: the former of which is remarkably beautiful.

The river on which we now sailed, was, at a medium, at about three feet deep: the water has a green cast, and the bottom is gravelly.

In the evening of the 15th, we saw the city of Zanguoa, which made a most brilliant appearance with its illuminations, and the effect was increased by numerous



bodies of soldiers ranged along the banks of the river, with paper lanterns.

Next day we passed several stone pagodas ; the features of the country through which we sailed, were still mountainous and picturesque, presenting often plantations of tallow and mulberry trees ; and the forts and salutes became so frequent, that they grew absolutely tiresome. Indeed, so much military honour was paid to the embassy, that the salutes could only be compared to a train of wild-fire laid from Hoang-tchew to Canton, and continually exploding as we proceeded.

About three o'clock in the morning of the 17th, we were awakened by a discharge of artillery ; we perceived, by the number of lanterns, that a large body of soldiers were drawn up on the shore : a lighted torch was fixed to the carriage of every gun, and the bearer of each stand of colours was distinguished by a flambeau, which gave new brilliance and effect to this military illumination.

In an early part of this afternoon, the fleet anchored opposite a small, but very neat town, and, in a short time, the conducting mandarin visited the junks, and distributed to the whole of the Ambassador's train, according to their rank, presents of perfumes, fans, imperial tea, and nankeen.

On the 18th, the country changed to a fine champagne, in which numerous villages rose amidst plantations of tallow and mulberry-trees. This day we passed a group of water-mills, all turned by a small cut from the river, flowing in a circular direction. These appeared to be on the European construction, and, as we understood, were employed in thrashing rice.



The provisions which we now received, though by no means deficient in quantity, were far inferior in quality to those we had been accustomed to receive in the former part of our journey ; this defect we were given to understand arose from the nature of the country, rather than from any inattention to the comfort and convenience of the embassy. Indeed, there could be no reason to suppose that the Emperor had not even been anxious to render our departure from his kingdom as agreeable as respect and exterior honour could make it.

The following day the banks of the river resumed the usual appearance, and long ranges of mountains rose into the horizon.

The 20th brought us to a large and beautiful town, where we were again to disembark. The scenery here might have advantageously employed the warmest pencil. The river formed a central object ; on one side was the town, with its appropriate circumstances, and a military encampment in front, with all its gaudy ensigns ; on the other side lofty perpendicular hills bounded the view in the most sublime style.

Having disembarked, we proceeded next day by land, some in palankins, others in sedans and bamboo chairs, or on horseback, as their fancy led them, for the attendant mandarin always consulted us on the mode in which we wished to travel, and as far as possible accommodated us. We soon reached the city of Chanfoiyeng, where the Ambassador was received with due distinction. The streets of this city are narrow, and the shops which line both sides of the streets, are in the usual style of Chinese order and splendour. Leaving this, we pas-



fed another walled city, and several villages, and arrived at the city of Yoofaun, where we were again to embark early in the afternoon; here we drank of tea at the palace of the mandarin, and having stowed the baggage on board another fleet of junks, provided for our accommodation, we went on board, anxious to proceed on our voyage, which on account of a heavy rain, we could not do till the 23d.

On the morning of the 24th of November, we found ourselves before the city of Mammenoa. The river now ran between enormous masses of loose stone, without any continuity or connection, exhibiting the appearance of having been subjected to some convulsion of nature. Some of these huge stones had been excavated into dwellings, and every interstice between them was occupied by gardens, and their attendant buildings. This stupendous scenery continued for several miles; it was grand, perhaps unique in itself; and where it admitted of views into the more distant country, it produced a most delightful picture.

We reached the city of Hoa-quoo in the afternoon, where, much to our satisfaction, we found larger junks ready to receive us. The mandarin of the place politely sent a variety of fruits and confectionary for the use of every junk, except that which contained the soldiers. The country through which we passed was rich and fertile, a few red rocks occasionally broke the level of the scene, and a number of rice mills were at work.

The fog was so thick on the morning of the 26th, as to obscure the country; about noon it dispersed, and the eye ranged over a level extent of rice fields, intersected with villas and gardens.



Our provisions had for some time been very indifferent, not from neglect, but the nature of the country. In proportion as we fared worse, our Chinese junk-men fared better ; they received not only our superfluity, but sometimes almost the whole.

The 27th presented a novel scene, a village entirely built of mud, with inhabitants as wretched in appearance as their habitations were mean. For this sight we were unable to account, in a part of the country where the inhabitants seemed industrious, and the earth fertile. We this day received from the mandarin presents of caddies of tea for every person in the suite.

On the 28th the river assumed a formidable breadth, and as the wind was high, the waves and surf resembled those of the sea. We continued through the day to pass numbers of fishing boats, which served to vary the navigation of the stream.

In the afternoon of this day we passed the city of Tyaung-shi-fennau, which, for extent and the advantages of situation, unquestionably deserves to be reckoned one of the first in China. Not less than a thousand junks lay at anchor before it. It is built near the conflux of several rivers, and enjoys a most extensive commerce ; the grand mandarin of this city paid a visit to his Excellency on board his junk, and made a variety of presents in silk, porcelain, scarlet cotton, coloured stuffs, tea, and elegant smelling bottles.

The only novelty that presented itself in the course of our voyage on the 29th, was a village built with blue bricks, and covered with tiles of the same colour. Cities, pagodas, and the palaces of mandarins were now become familiar objects, but presented nothing new,



and without this description would be tedious, and the reader will perhaps say we have already been too minute.

We passed two brick kilns and surrounding villages, and the following day we passed a city lying amid beautiful meadows and orchards, about two miles distance from the river. Beyond this the prospect became as delightful as fancy can conceive. Mountains rose into the horizon, forests waved on the slopes, and flocks and herds covered the vales.

Numerous cities and villages lined the banks of the river, which now expanded to a great breadth, and as the wind blew fresh, the junks sometimes appeared to us in danger of being overset. At this time the thermometer had sunk to forty, and the fields were covered with frost.

It has been remarked before, that there are no public cemeteries, except in the vicinity of populous places. Hence the country becomes a continual burial ground. Which ever way we turned our eyes, some trophy of death appeared, and the degree of embellishment it had received, marked the rank of the deceased. Indeed, it is not usual for the Chinese to erect their funeral monuments in their life-time, and as the choice of situation is free, many of them become picturesque objects.

On the 1st of December, after passing Taung-faung-au, we sailed by the town of Saunt-y-tawn, where several superb pagodas rose above the surrounding groves. Numerous timber yards occupied the banks of the river, and a large quantity of timber was immersed in the stream, which, as we were told, was in a state of prepa-



ration for the building of junks, the principal business of the place.

We were this day saluted with more than usual honour by the fort of May-taun-go, which we passed; as we likewise did a stately pagoda on the opposite side of the river. The cities of Loo Dichean, Morriun Dew, and Chic-a-fou, which we now approached, all lie contiguous to each other, and art and nature have united their efforts to increase the beauty of this charming vicinity. At a distance we observed vast columns of smoke which rose, as we were informed, from a porcelain manufactory.

In the evening we reached the city of Chinga-fou. Here illuminations, which were peculiarly brilliant, the firing of rockets and of artillery, took place in honour of the Ambassador. We received also a present of fruit and confectionary from the mandarin of the place.

To note every object which arrested and pleased the eye of the traveller, would fatigue the reader without informing him. Every bend of the river opened a new prospect that gratified the sight, to which no description, however vivid, can do justice. The season of the year was now the most unpropitious for landscape beauty, yet the charms of nature, intermixed with the vestiges of art, imparted successive impulses of delight.

On the second of December we passed the city of Fie-cho-jeunau, embosomed in plantations of trees. From its apparent population, and the number of junks employed in its commerce, it appeared evidently to be ranked in the first class of Chinese towns.

The next day we had a view of some beautiful ruins of an ancient building, the original destination of which



we could not discover, but from the remains still visible, we concluded it must have once been a work of no common magnificence, and it was in all probability a temple.

In this part of the empire situation seems to be duly appreciated. The villas of the mandarins, the pagodas, and even some of the private dwellings, are erected with a discriminating attention to the circumstances of the place, and the beauty of the scenery.

We observed numbers of fishermen employed in their vocation with rods and lines. In lakes and large rivers, the same kind of bait is frequently used as at sea. Nets, too, are in very common use. In some places bamboo canes, supporting a curtain of strong gauze, are placed across the streams, and then the fish being allured to the spot by baits, are caught in nets with great success.

On inquiry, we found that the rights of fishery, as in Europe, are private property. In those rivers we navigated, a kind of whiting and trout were the most plentiful; these are sold to the crews of the junks, and the demand for them is very great.

But the most extraordinary mode of fishing in this country is by birds trained for that purpose. Nor are hawks or hounds more sagacious in the pursuit of their prey, or more certain in obtaining it, than these birds. The Chinese call them Looau; they are about the size of a goose, with grey plumage, webbed feet, and have a long and very slender bill, that is crooked at the point. This aquatic fowl, when in its wild state, has nothing uncommon in its appearance, nor does it differ from other birds whom nature has appointed to live on the water. It makes its nest among the reeds of the shore,



or in the hollows of crags, or where an island offers its shelter or protection. Its faculty of diving, or remaining under water, is not more extraordinary than many other fowl that prey upon fish: but the most wonderful circumstance is the docility of these birds in employing their natural instinctive powers, at the command of the fishermen who possess them, in the same manner as the hound, the spaniel, or the pointer, submit their respective sagacity to the huntsman.

The number of these birds in a boat are proportioned to the size of it. At a certain signal they rush into the water, and dive after the fish; and the moment they have seized the prey, they fly with it to their boat; and however numerous these vessels may be, these sagacious birds invariably return to their own masters, and amidst the throng of fishing junks which are sometimes assembled on these occasions, they never fail to distinguish that to which they belong. When the fish are in great plenty, these purveyors will soon fill a boat with them; and will sometimes be seen flying along with a fish of such size, as to make the beholder suspect his organs of vision. The Chinese repeatedly asserted to us, that when one of them happens to have taken a fish which is too bulky for the management of a single fowl, the rest will immediately afford their assistance. But while they are thus labouring for their masters, they are prevented from paying any attention to themselves, by a ring which is passed round their necks, and is so contrived as to frustrate any attempt to swallow the least morsel of what they take.

We also saw another fishing party, which consisted of at least thirty fishermen, seated like so many taylor's on



a wide board, supported by props in the river, where they were angling. There was another groupe of these people near the shore, who had embanked a part of the river with sand, where, by raking the bottom with a kind of shovel, they caught large quantities of shrimps and other shell fish.

Early in the afternoon we anchored before the city of Vang-on-chean, where the Ambassador received a visit from the mandarin, and where we staid about two hours; this place occupies a considerable space; on one side it is bounded by the river, and on the other by a range of high mountains.

A succession of towns and villages enlivened our voyage during the succeeding day. The features of the country became craggy and elevated into hills; but fertility, in every possible situation, shewed the labour of diligent cultivation.

The appearance of indigence is by no means common in China, but this day we observed a cluster of cottages meanly constructed of logs of wood, and indicating internal wretchedness, but the eye had not leisure to give them more than a glance of commiseration, so very alluring were the charms of the surrounding country, of which the pencil of a master might communicate some general idea, but it is not in the power of language to convey any correct image even of the individual objects, much less of the picture formed by the combination of them. When we say that we saw forests, gardens, mountains, vallies, palaces, cottages, cities, villages, pagodas, and mills, with a variety of subordinate, but heightening circumstances, in one view, we certainly inform the reader of the constituent parts



of the prospect ; but to give him any proper ideas of their actual arrangement and relative situation ; of their proportions and contrast ; of their general distance from the eye, and comparative distance from each other, is beyond any exertion of description.

On the 5th the river became very shoally, and we anchored before dark to avoid the dangers of such a navigation. This day we passed the city of Yoo-jen-nau, situated at the bottom of a lofty mountain. Here we found that the river on which we had sailed, communicated with another of equal magnitude. The position of a city, at the conflux of two large rivers, readily points out its convenience for trade.

Leaving this place, the stream was divided into two streams by a beautiful islet, in which the mandarin had an elegant seat, probably for his occasional retirement.

In the evening, the city of Kaung-joo-fou presented the most brilliant nocturnal illumination we had hitherto seen ; and this complimentary attention was heightened by a present of fruits and confectionary from the mandarin.

In our passage down the river, on the 6th of December, we observed a number of machines, with which the Chinese water their grounds. They consist of a wheel of bamboo, turned by a stream, which throwing the water into large reservoirs, it is from thence distributed by sluices into channels which intersect the fields.

A beautiful village, called Shai-boo, situated on a bold elevation above the river, was the principal object in the landscape, till the attention was called away by



the pagoda of Tau-ay, the upper part of which being in ruins, gave it a picturesque and impressive appearance, and well accorded with the character of the little burial place at its foot.

The town of Whan-ting-taun was the only place of any importance we passed in this day's voyage. Villages were, however, numerous ; and some huts again made their appearance, of the most wretched construction, not being sufficient to shelter the inhabitants from the inclemency of the weather.

The 7th of December was the most remarkable day we had yet experienced, for during our whole progress we saw neither city, town, nor village. A few farm-houses were, however, dispersed over the face of the country. The banks of the river were lofty, and formed of a perpendicular barrier of red earth, streaked with horizontal veins of stone, in a direction perfectly rectilinear. This natural curiosity continued without any deviation from this regularity for several miles.

The shallowness of the river obliged us again to shift our baggage into junks of lesser burden ; this caused such delay, that it was not till late in the evening that we found ourselves in the vicinity of some town or village, which we might now not have noticed, had it not been for the number of paper lanterns we saw exhibited by the soldiers, and the complimentary salute they paid us.

The weather had for some days been temperate, but the face of the country was no longer the same. Barren mountains, separated by plains that seemed to defy the labour of man to produce fertility, now presented themselves on all hands. Some dwarf-trees, however, among



which the camphire is said to predominate, broke the abruptness of the slopes, and here and there a village or a pagoda animated the scene.

In this place we observed several sepulchral monuments, with excavations in the rocks beneath, as receptacles for the dead. The most elevated spots, the most abrupt precipices, we generally observed, were appropriated for the repose of the dead. Whether this choice was determined with a regard to notoriety, or from any superstitious opinion, that the body might be placed as near as possible to that heaven where spirits wing their flight, we could obtain no satisfactory information. The amiable virtues, however, of the Chinese, were rendered more conspicuous by the feeling regard they uniformly appear to shew to the remains of those they have once loved or respected.

On the 9th we arrived at a city, where the embassy was to make a day's march over land, and accordingly we disembarked. The landing-place was adorned with a triumphal arch, highly decorated with silken streamers, and connected, by a platform, with a circular court, surrounded by a screen of silk. In this place a number of horses were collected, with the choice of one of which every person in the suite was indulged for the journey of the day; but the Ambassador, with two or three gentlemen of his suite, were to proceed, as usual, in palankins. The horses being selected, the cavalcade commenced their progress; and perhaps such an exhibition of equestrian exercise and grotesque dress never before amused a Chinese populace. The horses were spirited, many of the riders were new to this mode of travelling. The cries of fear, and the shouts of ridicule,



were every where heard ; and scarcely could we attend to the passing scene, so much were we engaged by the peculiarities of our own situation.

Naung-aum-foo, through which we passed, is a large walled city ; and though the river here does not admit large junks, from the very great number of smaller ones which lined its shores, we concluded it had no inconsiderable pretensions to a commercial character.

At noon we arrived at the foot of a lofty mountain, where we were obliged to dismount ; having gained the ascent we passed several villages, and dined at the town of Lee-cou-au, where the road was lined with soldiers in armour, to salute the Ambassador as he passed.

The women, in this part of our journey, were either educated with less reserve, or allowed a greater share of liberty, than in the country through which we had lately passed, as we frequently saw them indulging their curiosity in observing such a new and extraordinary sight as we must have exhibited.

The splendor of cultivation was exchanged for the landscape of the barren mountain ; however, large patches of camphire and other trees sometimes relieved the eye.

We arrived at the gates of Naung-chin-oa, just as the sun had sunk beneath the horizon ; this city stands in a plain, encircled on three sides by hills, and on the fourth by the river on which we were to continue our voyage. The houses are chiefly built of wood, in general two stories high, and the streets are narrow, but well paved : in exterior appearance and decoration, it preserves the general character of Chinese towns.



Soldiers lined the streets to facilitate our passage to the mandarin's palace, a very noble building, consisting of several courts. A splendid entertainment was provided for the whole suite, and such a profusion of lights decorated the principal apartments as are never displayed in Europe on any occasion; indeed illumination, we may affirm, constitutes the grand appropriate feature of Chinese magnificence.

We again embarked in the morning of the 11th of December, on board small junks, corresponding with the depth of the river, and before noon we resumed our voyage, sailing under a wooden bridge of seven arches, with stone pillars, strongly guarded by soldiers at each end. From this point the city appears in a very advantageous view.

At a small distance from the bridge the river divides into two branches, running in almost opposite directions; on that whose stream bore us along we saw a large quantity of small timber in rafts.

In the afternoon we passed a pagoda, of a more singular construction than any which we had seen in our travels through the country. It consisted of five stories, and terminated in a flat roof, with trees growing on it. The body of the building, from many parts of which also shrubs appeared to sprout forth, was covered with a white plaster, and decorated with red paint in its angles and interstices.

The country still remained barren and mountainous; nor was its rude and dreary aspect enlivened by any appearance of cultivation. A considerable town, called Chang-fang, was the only place of consequence which we passed in the short voyage of this day.



The face of the country still continued dreary, and artificial circumstances increased the gloom. Sepulchral monuments were the chief objects which we saw in the course of the day ; the only novelty was floating rafts, with several bamboo huts, well tenanted, which we passed near the village of Ty-ang-koa.

On the 13th, after passing a considerable town, we came to the city of Shaw-choo, where the houses adjoining the river appear to be so slenderly supported, as to threaten constant ruin to their inhabitants and the passengers. At the extremity of this city the fleet anchored ; and here the Ambassador experienced the elegant attention of the mandarin in a very superior degree.

In the evening he sent the suite a very handsome present of china, together with a large supply of provisions ; we also, at a later hour of the evening, received a quantity of tobacco, some ducks cured in the manner of hams, of a very delicate flavour, together with a considerable quantity of dried fish.

At this place, junks of larger dimensions were again prepared to receive the embassy ; and next day we passed through a country sometimes varied with patches of cultivated ground, though mountainous sterility was still the predominant feature.

Towards evening we found the hills gradually approaching the river, till at last they seemed to close, and admit only its course : this gloomy scene continued for some time, as if to heighten the contrast that was to open. We now reached a mountain of immense perpendicular height, the upper part of which appears to project over the stream. Its contour is bare rock and



shaggy foilage, and this extends for nearly two miles : its termination, like its commencement, is abrupt. At the extreme point, a pyramidical rock appears to rise above the edge of the precipice, and this is separated by an intervening plain from another enormous rock, of the same character, though of a different form.

As a range of hills may be said to have conducted us along the river to these stupendous objects, so a succession of the same kind continued during a course of several miles after we had left them ; but it was the peculiar office of this extraordinary night to awaken our astonishment by the grand exertions of art, as well as by the stupendous works of nature ; for, at the conclusion of this chain of hills, that had so long excluded any view into the country, we were surprised with a line of light extending for several miles over mountains and vallies, at some distance from the river, and forming one uninterrupted blazing outline as they rose or sunk in the horizon.

In some parts of this brilliant, undulating line, it was varied or thickened, as it appeared, by large bands or groups of torches ; and, on the most conspicuous heights immense bonfires threw their flames towards the clouds. Nor was this all, for the lights not only circumscribed the outline of the mountain, but sometimes rose up in a serpentine form, and connected, by a spiral stream of light, a large fire blazing at the bottom, with that which reddened the summit.

The number of lanterns, lamps, or torches, employed on this occasion, are beyond all calculation, as the two extremities of the illuminated space, taken in a straight line, without estimating the sinkings of the vallies, or



the inequality of the mountain tops, could not contain a less distance from each other than three miles. Whether these lights were held by any army of soldiers, or were fixed in the ground, we could not learn ; but it was certainly the most magnificent illumination ever seen by any European traveller, and the most splendid compliment ever paid to the public dignity of an European ambassador. Successive discharges of artillery were, at regular distances, added to the honour of this superb spectacle.

On the 15th the grand mandarin ordered the fleet to come to anchor, for the purpose of indulging the embassy with a view of the mountain of Koan-yeng-naum, one of the natural curiosities of China. It has a perpendicular ascent from the water, terminating in a peak ; and from the face towards the river, such enormous masses project, as apparently menace every moment to fill up the channel of the stream.

But art has heightened the curious circumstances of this extraordinary mountain. It contains several caverns. One of them is about forty feet above the level of the water. To this there is access by a flight of steps guarded by a rail. On reaching the top of the flight, we enter a room of good dimensions, excavated from the rock, in which stands an image sacred to Chinese devotions. An artificial staircase conducts to two other superior apartments ; and the whole is fitted up by the mandarin to whom the mountain belongs, in a style of rude magnificence, corresponding to the character of the place.

Proceeding through a country presenting many sublime features, we reached the city of Schizing-ta-heng



about noon. This place enjoys every local advantage that can contribute to render it picturesque in a high degree.

Lofty banks for a considerable space shut out our view of the land; and where a casual opening gave a wider prospect, it was not marked with any new features. Similar objects occurred—varied only by shape, or discriminated by light and shadow.

The evening was cheered with an illumination of the distant hills. The coup d'œil was extremely grand, but inferior to what we had witnessed before.

Next day we saw a number of steep rocks, in various grotesque forms; they were sometimes tinted with foliage, and sometimes the traces of laborious taste, were the prevailing character of the landscape they afforded. Among them arose a large mountain, shaded by an hanging forest, which was also accompanied with circumstances that enlivened and adorned it. At the foot of it a road had been cut out of the solid rock, and to communicate with it, a large arch of stone has been built across a deep chasm. In the centre of the wood, there is the palace of a mandarin, surrounded with detached offices, and at some small distance a temple, which belongs to it, and contains the image which is the usual object of religious worship. There are several burying places in different parts of the wood, which are the mausoleums of the mandarin's family to whom the palace belongs. It is called Tre-liod-zau.

This magnificent scene, which, on a particular turn of the river presented itself, is much heightened by a contrasted succession of bare and barren mountains.



We now reached the city of T'ing-yan-yeun, a place well fortified, and of great extent and population. The number of junks which lay before it, indicated an enlarged commerce, and the timber yards on the banks of the river pointed out its principal trade. Triumphal arches decorated the beach; and several regiments of soldiers paid the military honours as we passed.

From this city the river takes a direct course for some miles, amidst fertile and highly cultivated meadows, and the mountains fall into the back ground.

This afternoon one of the junks was in imminent danger of being consumed by fire occasioned by a spark falling unobserved from a tobacco-pipe. Indeed, where smoking is so generally used, it is a matter of astonishment that accidents are not more frequent and fatal.

On the 17th we passed the extensive village of Ouz-chouaa, where a number of manufactories appear to be established. The country now resumed its fertility and beauty; and provisions became both plentiful and excellent.

In the evening we reached the city of Sangs-we-yen-no, where the Ambassador received every honour that the most elegant attention on the part of the mandarin could pay, or his Excellency expect. The illuminations displayed here were peculiarly grand.

On the following morning we passed a series of very large and populous towns, so closely connected, that we seemed for some hours to be sailing through one city of immense extent. The salutes were almost incessant as we proceeded; and every place poured forth thousands of its inhabitants, though at a very early hour, to obtain a transient view of an European embassy.



We now approached the city of Tayn-tsyn-tau, a place of great importance and the most extensive trade. The suburbs lie on both sides of the river for several miles; and if we may judge from those circumstances that fell under our inspection, in extent, population, and commerce, this city is only inferior to Pe-kin or Canton. Thousands of junks covered the river for a vast space; and scarcely had we overcome the difficulties and impediments of this crowded navigation, before we found ourselves approaching to Canton, the termination of our voyage.

Our arrival being notified at Canton, several mandarins waited on his Excellency; and these were soon followed by the gentlemen of the English factory with the British commissioners and Colonel Benson. This officer brought with him the public dispatches for the Ambassador, and a packet of private letters from our friends in England, together with the newspapers which had arrived by the last ships. Those only who have been so long cut off from any communication with the land which contained all that was dear to them, can form an adequate idea of the anxious joy we felt at opening a letter from the relative or friend we loved.

Next day we were moved into larger junks. The magnificence of the river at this place baffles description. Its surface was almost covered with vessels, engaged in trade, or attracted by curiosity. The banks were lined with soldiers, and covered with elegant houses; and a succession of forts thundered out salutes with almost incessant rapidity.

We reached the English factory about one in the afternoon; and both it and the Dutch factory paid his



Excellency the usual salute, hoisting at the same time the standard of their respective countries.

For some days it had been a common sight to see the boats generally rowed by women. We sometimes observed a child tied to its mother's back, and another at her breast, while she was plying the oar. To a feeling mind this spectacle could not fail to give pain ; and it may be remarked, that in Tartary and the northern provinces of China, where the women are lamed, either by fashion or policy, from their infant years, such laborious occupations can never fall to their lot.

A temporary residence for the Ambassador and suite had been provided by the East India Company's supercargoes ; and in point of accommodation and domestic arrangement, we found it superior to the first palaces in which we had lodged, during our long peregrination in China.

As we have already given a description of Canton, we shall forbear adding any thing respecting it in this place.

For several days, during the time of dinner, the Ambassador was entertained with Chinese plays, performed on a stage erected before the windows of his apartments, and the Viceroy visited him once during his stay, which was followed by large presents of porcelain, nankeen, and sugar-candy to the whole retinue.

On the first day of the new year, 1794, his Excellency and suite were splendidly entertained by the gentlemen of the British factory. The band of music which had accompanied the embassy, on the request of the factory, were permitted to enter into its service ; and



in a country where amusements are so few and confined, it could not fail to be a valuable acquisition.

Degeneracy of manners evidently marks the character of the inhabitants of Canton, and this reflection is the more melancholy, as there is too much reason to suppose the contagion of European example has infected the simplicity of the Chinese general character; and rendered themselves objects of contempt to the Chinese government.

On the 8th of January the Ambassador proceeded to Whampoa to join the ships. At the same time a deputation of the retinue was dispatched to Macao, to make preparations for his Excellency's reception at that place.

Whampoa, beyond which European ships are never permitted to pass, is an elegant and populous village, about eighteen miles below Canton. The river near this place is defended by a sand bank, which prevents the passage of large ships, except at high water; and two necks of land, projecting on each side of it, form the celebrated strait of Bocca Tigris.

At this place Van-Tadge-In took his farewell leave of the Ambassador. Our praise or censure will not reach a person of his rank; but in bestowing praise on this deservedly distinguished personage and most amiable of men, we gratify the best feelings of the human heart, and at the same time do honour to ourselves. This excellent character can never be forgotten by those who experienced his assiduous care, his mild condescension, and his enlightened conduct, during a long and troublesome attendance on the embassy. He held an exalted rank in the Chinese army—perhaps the



highest ; but no dignity of situation had rendered him inattentive to the minutest offices of duty. His mind seemed capable of reflecting honour on any rank ; with the most benevolent heart he attached himself to the interests of those in whose service he was employed ; he had even contracted a friendship for some ; and his last adieu to the Ambassador and suite was accompanied by the tears of affection.

On the 14th Lord Macartney landed at Macao ; and took up his residence with Mr. Drummond, one of the supercargoes of the East India Company. Here the gentlemen of the several European factories have their houses ; as they are not permitted to remain at Canton longer than is absolutely necessary for the purpose of trade.

The long intercourse which has subsisted between Europeans and the Chinese in this place, has not altered the established customs and habits of the latter. The Chinese never deviate from the usages of their country, which may be considered as invariable.

Without the wall is the common burying-ground of the Chinese ; and in it we saw several memorials of our countrymen, whose ashes repose here. Those who die in the Roman Catholic faith have separate cemeteries : the Chinese, more liberal than the Catholics, suffer their dust to mingle with ours.

Here Mr. Plumb, the interpreter, though offered an handsome establishment if he chose to return to Europe, quitted the service of the embassy. He left his English friends with sensible regret ; but naturally preferred passing the remainder of his days in the bosom of his family and his country.



On the 8th of March, Lord Macartney and retinue embarked for Europe, amid the salutes of forts and ships; and being joined by a large homeward-bound fleet of Indiamen, on the 17th proceeded to sea.

Nothing of any particular consequence happened during our voyage. We arrived at St Helena on the 19th of June, and remained there till the 1st of July.

On the 3d of September we were seriously alarmed by running foul of a large fleet off Portland Roads, which proved to be the Grand Fleet commanded by Earl Howe. Two or three of the Indiamen received some damage; but, except in this instance, our voyage was free from accident, and barren of interesting occurrence.

In the afternoon of this day we anchored safe at Spithead, after an absence of little less than two years from our native land.

In the course of the preceding narrative, it was mentioned that Captain Mackintosh, and a part of the embassy, proceeded from Hoang-tchew to Chufan.

The same kind of scenery, we are informed, presented itself in the passage to Chufan as has been described in the route we made: but the river itself was of a different nature from that on which we sailed; its course was occasionally broken by cataracts of a formidable aspect; and required all the ingenuity of the Chinese to contrive means to obviate the difficulties of such a navigation. Yet, strange as it may appear, they apply the mechanical powers to raise vessels into a higher level of the river, or sink them to a lower: to effect which, two strong stentions are fixed in the centre of the river, from which two large beams project over the water;



to these blocks strong ropes are attached, and the junk being well secured fore and aft, is in a few moments hoisted, with all its contents, from one level to another. Persons accustomed to the business are stationed at these places ; and so certain and secure is their operation, that it is scarcely regarded as an impediment or hazard. The same attention, we understand, was paid to Captain Mackintosh and his party, during their passage to Chusan, as to the embassy itself.

F I N I S.



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OF THE

## SECOND VOLUME.

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